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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for enabling us to be creative thinkers. We know that beyond our education and experience there are solutions to problems we will not think of without Your special gift of knowledge. We remember times when we have received this supernatural gift. You revealed answers to problems that we could not have achieved with our own analysis. We prayed faithfully and waited patiently and then the startling "ah-ha!" dawned on us. You gave us insights we could never have grasped by ourselves. By divine inspiration, You helped us know what was happening beneath the surface of perplexities. You allowed us to see what You see. We gave You the credit and the glory.

Now, as we begin this day, once again we confess how much we need this gift of knowledge. Unresolved problems have a way of piling up. Please use us to discover and communicate Your answers. Thank You for transforming our imaginations so they can be holy riverbeds through which You can pour Your creative ideas. Help us picture reality from Your perspective and then claim what You want. We look forward to an inspired day. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the motion to

proceed to S. 543, the Volunteer Protection Act. By previous order, at 11:15 a.m. the Senate will vote on the second cloture motion to proceed to this bill, S. 543. As a reminder to all Senators, if that cloture vote fails, two additional cloture motions were filed last night and would be voted on, on Thursday. It is still my hope that the Senate will be allowed to move forward and begin consideration of this important legislation. In addition, the Senate could also be asked to turn to any other Legislative or Executive Calendar items that may be cleared.

VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on this legislation, again, I want to emphasize to the American people that we are being prevented from even debating the real merits of this very important legislation, which would give some degree of protection to volunteers from being sued when they are not even remotely involved in what may have caused a lawsuit. If they are involved in some excessive action or some misconduct, they would still be subject to lawsuits, but this would give some degree of protection to volunteers.

I cannot help but again point out the fact that, at a time when there is this great conference in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, talking about voluntarism in America, how important it is to be involved with Little League, to be involved with reading, to be involved with the Boys and Girls Club, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army—be involved. Here, when we say, "Yes, but one of the problems is that you run the risk of being sued; if your good will causes you to be involved as a volunteer you could wind up having legal action against you and we want to provide some protection against that"—the Democrats are filibustering the motion to proceed to the bill.

That is very curious. They say maybe it is related to other issues that have

not been brought up. But the fact of the matter is, this is very clear. It is a very clear choice. Is the Senate going to go on record of supporting volunteers and giving them some reasonable protection against frivolous lawsuits, or are we going to side with the plaintiffs' lawyers who want to be able to sue everybody, anytime, anywhere they want to, even volunteers? We are going to have to choose.

So I want to serve notice to the Senate we are going to vote on this issue over and over and over, and we will not go to other legislation until this Volunteer Protection Act is passed.

You know, if there is going to be a lot of whining about we cannot do other things—this is important, fundamental legislation that tells an awful lot about whether we are honest about wanting to encourage volunteers and be helpful to volunteers in America.

I would like to address some questions to the distinguished Senator from Georgia, who has done such outstanding work on this legislation. I commend him for being prepared to come to the floor of the Senate and point out what is actually in the bill. I put down some of the ridiculous allegations that I have heard against the bill yesterday, about who might be covered by this. You have stood here and you have answered the questions. You have told the truth about what is in the bill. You have been prepared to work out problems that might exist, although it does not look to me like anybody is really very serious about addressing concerns they may or may not have. So, I thank you on behalf of the volunteers of America for volunteering to stand here in the Senate and do battle for them. You have done a great job. I have heard a lot of other good speeches from our colleagues out here in the Senate, Senator ASHCROFT—I encourage others to come over and engage in this debate.

But would you answer for me this question? First of all, is this going to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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